

Conservation District and Watershed Group Priorities

for the

AMERICAN REINVESTMENT AND RECOVERY PLAN

March 2009

1. Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups have developed a list of shovel-ready priorities for the stimulus dollars. Half of these projects are ready to proceed within 30 days; the remainder would take up to 90 days.
2. We recognize that there are a limited number of dollars available, and that all the projects cannot be funded.
3. We propose that three generic projects be funded at these levels:
 - a. \$2,364,000 for river and stream restoration projects.
 - b. \$3,849,000 for canal and irrigation ditch restoration projects.
 - c. \$3,000,000 for restoration of animal feeding operations.
4. We propose that the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council be authorized to develop criteria, prioritize requests, and award the dollars.